

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W

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R 140855Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1862

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 13585

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND SURRENDERS

REFS: (A) ADDIS 13173, 2B; (B) ADDIS 13299

1. RADIO ETHIOPIA ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 13 THAT ATO MESFIN WOLDE MARIAM RESIGNED THE CHAIRMANSHIP (BUT NOT HIS MEMBERSHIP) OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. FYI: THIS ACTUALLY APPEARS TO HAVE OCCURRED O/A NOVEMBER 4. END FYI. WE HEAR THAT MESFIN MADE A LOT OF ENEMIES BY HIS OVERLY POLITICAL APPROACH TO HIS DUTIES ANDK HIS BLATANT ATTEMPT TO GATHER AS MUCH "DIRG" SUPPORT AS POSSIBLE IN THE SERVICE OF HIS PERSONAL POLITICAL AMBITIONS (CF REF A). ACCORDING RADIO, MESFIN HAS BEEN REPLACED BY NAVY LT. COMMANDER LEMMA GUTEMA AS CHAIRMAN. VICE-CHAIRMAN, MAJOR MERSHA ADMASSU, HAS ALSO BEEN REPLACED AND HAS LEFT CI AND RETURNED TO HIS NORMAL DUTIES. MAJOR GETAHUN DAMTE IS THE NEW VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION.

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2. RADIO ETHIOPIA, ON NOVEMBER 11, ANNOUNCED THE SURRENDER OF

MAKONNEN WOLDE YOHANNES AND THE CONFISCATION OF THE EXTENSIVE PROPERTIES OF HIS BROTHER, WOLDE GHIORGHIS WOLDE YOHANNES, AS THE LATTER HAS REMAINED AWAY IN THE UK WHERE, WE ARE TOLD, HE WENT FOR MEDICAL REASONS (CF REF B). ACCORDING TO WELL-INFORMED SOURCE, THE ACTION UNDERTAKEN AGAINST THE WOLDE YOHANNES BROTHERS WAS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO STRIP THEM OF THEIR ASSETS.

3. WOZ. GENNET GEBRE KRISTOS WAS SELECTED BY EMAC AS (THE ONLY WOMAN) MEMBER OF THE PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION CAMPAIGN'S STEERING COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 11. EMAC ANNOUNCED THAT THE CHOICE OF WOZ. GENNET REFLECTED ITS INTEREST "IN THE EQUALITY OF ALL ETHIOPIAN CITIZENS." WOZ. GENNET, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, IS TO SELECT HER ASSISTANTS. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT WOZ. GENNET WILL BE CALLED UPON TO TAKE SPECIAL INTEREST IN FEMALE PARTICIPANTS OF CAMPAIGN. MANNER IN WHICH FEMALE PARTICIPATION HANDLED COULD PROVE SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN CAMPAIGN'S SUCCESS OR FAILURE. WE HAVE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE PROBLEMS OF PROMISCUITY BETWEEN STUDENTS WEIGHS ON PARENTAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS STUDENTS-TO-COUNTRYSIDE EFFORT. END COMMENT.

WYMAN

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